

Benefits Update for Fiscal Year 2003

for South Carolina Retirement Systems Members and Covered Employers

PORS Retiree Earnings Limitation Removed

Effective July 1, 2002, Police Officers Retirement System (PORS) members who have been retired for at least 15 consecutive calendar days may return to work for an employer covered by the Retirement Systems with no earnings limitation. If a retired PORS member returns to covered employment sooner than 15 consecutive calendar days after retirement, the member's retirement annuity will be suspended while the member remains employed by a covered employer.

PORS Retirees Who Return to State Employment Not Eligible for Second Unused Leave Payment

Effective July 1, 2002, retired PORS members who return to work for the state or its agencies, a higher education institution, board, or commission, or a school that is a governmental unit of the state, are not eligible to receive a lump-sum payment of their unused leave upon termination of employment.

Retiree Cost-of-Living Increase Approved

At its June 18th meeting, the State Budget and Control Board approved a 1.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) that took effect July 1, 2002, for members of the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS) and the Police Officers Retirement System (PORS) whose retirement was in effect the previous July 1st. The COLA is based on a 1.3 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as of December 31, 2001.

SCRS members who retired early are not eligible for COLAs until the second July 1st after they reach age 60 or the second July 1st after the date they would have attained 28 years of service credit had they not retired.

State Optional Retirement Program Election Period

For Fiscal Year 2003, employees who are eligible for the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS) and the State Optional Retirement Program (State ORP) must enroll in one of the two plans within 15 calendar days of their date of hire. If an employee does not make a plan selection within the 15-day period, he or she will be enrolled automatically in SCRS.

Installment Service Purchase Program Interest Rate Change

Effective July 1, 2002, the interest rate for the Installment Service Purchase Program is 6.75 percent. This interest rate applies to installment service purchases initiated after June 30, 2002.

**Have questions? We can help. Just contact us toll free at 1-800-868-9002
(available within SC only), at 803-737-6800, or at cs@scrs.state.sc.us**

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